

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 1260.620

(4) The Secretary shall certify any State organization or association which he determines complies with the criteria in this section, and his eligibility determination shall be final.

(b) *Organizations or associations representing importers.* The determination by the Secretary as to the eligibility of importer organizations or associations to nominate members to the Board shall be based on applications containing the following information:

(1) The number and type of members represented (i.e., beef, or cattle importers, etc.).

(2) Annual import volume in pounds of beef and beef products and/or the number of head of cattle.

(3) The stability and permanency of the importer organization or association.

(4) The number of years in existence.

(5) The names of the countries of origin for cattle, beef, or beef products imported.

The Secretary may also consider additional information that the Secretary deems relevant and appropriate. The Secretary's determination as to eligibility shall be final.

### § 1260.540 Application for certification.

(a) *State organizations or associations.* Any State organization or association which meets the eligibility criteria specified in §1260.530(a) for certification is entitled to apply to the Secretary for such certification of eligibility to nominate producers for appointment to the Board. To apply, such organization or association must submit a completed "Application for Certification of Organization or Association," Form LS-25, contained in §1260.640. It may be reproduced or additional copies may be obtained from the Livestock and Seed Division; Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA; 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2610-S; Washington, DC 20250. (Telephone: 202/447-2650.)

(b) *Importer organizations or associations.* Any organization or association whose members import cattle, beef, or beef products into the United States may apply to the Secretary for determination of eligibility to nominate importers under the Act. Applications shall be in writing and shall contain

the information required by §1260.530. Interested organizations or associations may contact the Livestock and Seed Division; Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA; 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2610-S; Washington, DC 20250; (Telephone: 202/447-2650) for information concerning application procedures.

### § 1260.550 Verification of information.

The Secretary may require verification of the information to determine eligibility for certification to make nominations under the Act.

### § 1260.560 Review of certification.

The Secretary may terminate or suspend certification or eligibility of any organization or association if it ceases to comply with the certification or eligibility criteria set forth in this subpart. The Secretary may require any information deemed necessary to ascertain whether the organization or association may remain certified or eligible to make nominations.

### § 1260.570 Notification of certification and the listing of certified organizations.

Organizations and associations shall be notified in writing as to whether they are eligible to nominate producer members to the Board. A copy of the certification or eligibility determination shall be furnished to certified or eligible organizations and associations. Copies shall also be maintained on file in the Livestock and Seed Division office, where they will be available for inspection.

### §§ 1260.580-1260.600 [Reserved]

### § 1260.610 Acceptance of appointment.

Producers and importers nominated to the Board must signify in writing their intent to serve if appointed.

### § 1260.620 Confidential treatment of information.

All documents and information submitted to or obtained by the Department shall be kept confidential by all employees of the Department, except that the Secretary may issue general statements based upon the information collected from a number of different